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interesting to the general reader. The view is advanced that Great Britain will grant self-government to India, as soon as that country proves capable of exercising it successfully. In the meantime the spread of western education among the younger generation in India must inevitably produce irritation and dissatisfaction with the paramountcy of England. The various religious cults of India are well explained, the caste system is discussed and condemned, the Hindu religious book, *Bhagavad-gita*, is described, the popular forms of Hinduism are made clear, and a comparison between the Buddha and the Christ is instituted. An optimistic view is adopted of the future prospects of Christianity in India, but the outstanding admission remains, that after six centuries of effort, 2,500,000 of the 315,000,000 of India have been brought under Christian influence.

DAVID H. BUEL.

**The History and Economics of Indian Famines.** By A. Loveday. 163 pp. Index. G. Bell & Sons, London, 1914. 2s. 6d.  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ .

This enlargement of the original essay which won the Le Bas Prize in 1913 finds a point of view slightly different from that in the multitudinous literature covering India. After outlining the history of famines in India, the agricultural and industrial changes during the last century are discussed. The balance between the artificial and the natural factors influencing the conditions of the country is carefully considered.

It is worthy of note (p. 99) that "it is difficult to find evidence that over-population in India is a reality." Furthermore, drought is declared not an effective check where in particular localities there may be a tendency toward over-population. The extension of railroad lines has proved a decidedly important factor in reducing the catastrophes heretofore associated with drought, for they make possible rapid transportation of food to the affected areas as well as efficient distribution of the affected people to the untouched areas.

Industries are affected by drought as vitally as agriculture and the importance of better government protection of these industries is emphasized. A critical discussion of the means for the relief of the people, with subsequent results, shapes the general problem of the author. An appendix of explanatory notes accompanies the text.

E. VAN CLEEF.

**The Big Game of Central and Western China.** Being an account of a journey from Shanghai to London overland across the Gobi Desert. By Harold F. Wallace. xviii and 318 pp. Map, ills., index. Duffield & Co., New York, 1913. \$4. 9 x 6.

A narrative of a journey, taken primarily to obtain, for the British Museum, specimens of the takin, a goat-like antelope, ranging from Shanghai along the southern and western edges of the Gobi Desert to Omsk in Siberia. The emphasis is placed naturally on stalking game and excellent descriptions of the manner and difficulties of the hunt are given. In addition to the takin, wild sheep, the serow, the wapiti and gazelle are studied in detail. The drawings of the animals by the author add to the value of the book. While hunting, Wallace has his eyes and mind directed only on the chase, but during the long journeys between stalks, he has caught many phases of the life of the people and of the land of his travels. So the book contains descriptions of isolated mountain villages, of desert and mountain scenery, of traditions and customs and of political practices. The book gives a good cross-section from the Pacific to Central Asia. ROBERT M. BROWN.

**Ceylon: The Portuguese Era.** Being a History of the Island for the Period 1505-1658. By P. E. Pieris. Vol. 1: xxvii and 590 pp. Vol. 2: ix and 628. Maps, ills., index. The Colombo Apothecaries Co., Colombo, 1914. \$7.50. 9 x 6.

Two introductory chapters give the essential preliminaries of the history of Ceylon before the arrival of Europeans. From this beginning the narrative occupies two large volumes with a very comprehensive study of the little known establishment of Portuguese power in Ceylon from November, 1505, when the